

Injustice in Jena

Black News.com - Jena, Louisiana - Racial tensions resurfaced in Jena on September 1, 2006, when hangman's nooses were discovered in a tree in the high school's campus after a black student tried to sit with white students at lunch. The school head recommended that the noose-hungers should be expelled. The board of education overruled him and the three white student perpetrators received in-school suspension. On November 30, 2006 an arson fire destroyed the main academic building at the school. On December 4, 2006 a fight broke out on campus, after which six African-American students, later dubbed the Jena 6, were arrested and charged with attempted second-degree murder. Law enforcement officials told the Alexandria Daily Town Talk they have found no links between the noose incident, the arson fire, and subsequent fights.

The six accused of attempted second-degree murder are black and attacked a single white student after a week of intimidation between the two groups, including the one who was assaulted.[3] Intimidation cited includes an

off campus incident, in which a white student responded to threats by brandishing a gun. Black students allegedly wrestled away the gun and were then held in custody and charged with theft when they refused to return the gun, while no charges were made against the white student. On June 26, 2007 the first day of trial for Mychal Bell, one of the defendants,

the prosecutor agreed to reduce the charges for Bell to aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy to commit aggravated second-degree battery. Bell was found guilty by an all-white jury, and will face the possibility of up to 22 years in prison when he is sentenced. The sentencing was originally scheduled for July 30, but has been delayed until September 20, 2007. However,



Tony Henry, vocal recording artist, performs in Crockett

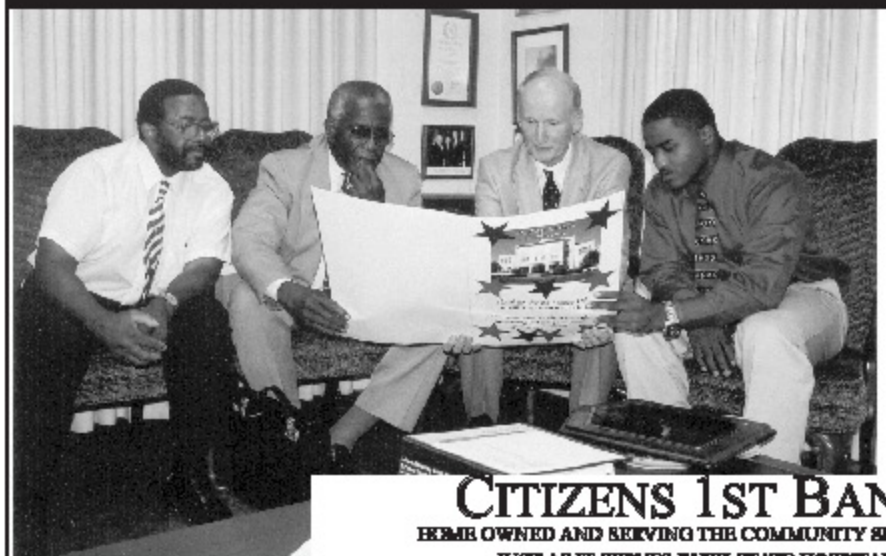
Crockett, TX- Tony Henry, vocal recording artist, performed at the Crockett Civic Center recently providing entertainment for the First Annual Crockett Labor Day Western Fashion Show. Mr. Henry entered several major talent shows and won including BET's talent search which gave him the opportunity to perform on BET's 106 and Park. He has performed at New York's Famous Apollo Theater production of "Showtime at the Apollo". The Crockett native, now living in



Houston, has developed a fan base in major cities in Texas and has written and recorded several songs

the case is currently in dispute, as the court-appointed public defender did not call a single witness in his attempt to defend Bell. The other five students will be tried at a later date. The town has gained inter

national notoriety as an example of the alleged "new 'stealth' racism" that lives on in America with national attention drawn to the events by a National Public Radio prime time story on July 30, 2007.



Mr. James L. Perkins, Citizens 1st Bank President, was inducted into the Rusk High School *Wall of Honor* Friday night September 8, 2007. He is pictured here with Nebraska Running Back, Cody Glenn, also former Citizens 1st Bank employee; Andrew Makmree of the Tyler Bank and Walter Sessico, Rusk city Councilman. They are viewing a thank you card to Mr. Perkins from Rusk State Hospital Employees and Superintendent Ted Debs for support given to RSH. The card is signed by each employee and has been framed and placed on display in the bank. RSH provides 936 jobs to East Texas.

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